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Awa Pit language

Awa or **Awa pit**, also known as **Cuaiquer**, is a Barbacoan language spoken by the Awa-Kwaiker people, who inhabit territory straddling northern Ecuador and southern Colombia (the language is sometimes also referred to as **Coaiquer**, **Quaiquer**, or **Kwaiker** in Colombia, and as **Awapit** in Ecuador).[3] Awa pit is classified by UNESCO as a severely endangered language.[4]

Cuaiquer	
Awa Pit	
Native to	Colombia, Ecuador
Ethnicity	15,000 Awa-Kwaiker (2007)[1]
Native speakers	13,000 (2008)[1]
Language family	Barbacoan ▪ Awan ▪ **Cuaiquer**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`kwi`
Glottolog	`awac1239 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/awac1239)`[2]

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Speakers and characteristics

The Awa pit language has around 21 thousand speakers, mostly residing on the Colombian Pacific slopes of the Andes, with about a thousand in an adjacent area of Ecuador.[3] While most men also speak Spanish, the women and children are predominantly monolingual.[3] Literacy among Awa speakers is less than 1% in their native language and under 5% in the secondary Spanish language.[3]

The Awa pit language has a subject–object–verb structure and has adopted the Latin script.[3] Grammatically, Awa pit uses a characteristic conjunct/disjunct system of verb suffixes for person-marking which displays similarities with some Tibeto-Burman languages, such as the Newari language of Kathmandu.[5][6][7]

Phonology

The Awa pit inventory is as follows:[8]

Consonant phonemes

		Bilabial	Alveolar		Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar
			plain	lateral			
Nasal		m	n				ŋ
Stop		p	t				k
Fricative	voiceless		s	ɬ	ʃ		
	voiced		z		ʒ		
Approximant				l		j	w

Vowel phonemes

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i	ɨ	u
Open		a	

References

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6. Curnow, Timothy Jowan (2 May 2002). "Conjunct/disjunct marking in Awa Pit" (http://www.deepdyve.com/lp/de-gruyter/conjunct-disjunct-marking-in-awa-pit-YayWjdRuH5/1). *Linguistics – An Interdisciplinary Journal of the Language Sciences* 40(3):611-627.(subscription required)
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External links

- "Cuaiquer Indian Language (Awa Pit, Awa-Cuaiquer)" – Native-Languages.org (http://www.native-languages.org/cuaiquer.htm)
- "Gramática pedagógica del Awapit" (A learner's grammar of Awapit) – direct download link to Microsoft Word document in Spanish, available from **here** (https://www.google.com/#q=site:http://www.proyectosasiku.org+++Awapit&hl=en&prmd=imvns&ei=_QaXT7fONsrI0QWg7-WyDg&start=0&sa=N&filter=0&bav=on.2,or.r_gc.r_pw.r_qf.,cf.osb&fp=d3dcdebd3e979186) (via Sasiku Project (https://web.archive.org/web/20120729181600/http://www.proyectosasiku.org/index.php))

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